

(Some of) FTC Bureau of Economics Accomplishments Over Past 2 Years

Antitrust

Case Support/Generation

- Increased emphasis on quantitative analyses
- Hospital Merger Retrospectives
- Work on Unilateral Effects
- Work on Coordinated Interaction
- Work on Branded Products
- IP Case Agenda Working Group
- Input Into:
 - State Action Taskforce
 - *Noerr* Taskforce
- Moved Financial Analysts to BE
 - Integrated into BE work

Related Work

- Gas Price Monitoring Program
- Input into BC Merger and Remedies Best Practices
- FTC/DOJ Interaction
 - Best Practices
 - Coordinated Interaction
- Discussions with EU re:
 - Innovation Markets
 - Cruise Ships Analyses
 - Merger Analyses
 - Merger Guidelines
 - IP
- Discussions with UK re: Cruise Ships Analyses
- Presentation to ICN re: Merger Analyses
- Discussions with Canadians re: Merger Analyses

Antitrust

Transparency Initiatives

- Entries on B.E. Web Page
- ABA Interview with Director
- ABA Brown Bag on Coordinated Interaction (March 2002)
- ABA Brown Bag on What Economists "Do" at FTC and DOJ (July 2002)
- ABA Brown Bag on Cruises (November 2002)
- ABA Brown Bag on Branded Products Mergers (December 2002)
- Speeches on Empirical Merger Analyses, Branded Products Merger Analyses, and Critical Loss
- BE (and BC) Best Practices
- Economics Committee Newsletter Article on Best Practices

Roundtables/Hearings

- IO Economics Roundtable
- Merger Efficiencies Roundtable
- Forthcoming:
Marketing and Branded Products Roundtable
- Input into:
 - Gas Prices Hearings
 - IP Hearings
 - Health Care Workshop & Hearings
 - Internet Roundtable

Antitrust

Papers/Reports

- A number of BE Papers, including
 - BE Working Paper on Merger Activity and Enforcement
 - BE Working Paper on Critical Loss
 - BE Working Paper on Hospital Competition
 - BE Working Paper on Effects of Restrictions on Internet Sales of Wine
 - BE Working Paper on Scanner Data Estimation
 - Econometrics Best Practices Paper
 - HSR 20th Anniversary Paper
 - Paper on "Merger Outcomes" Literature

On-Going Research

- Major Update of 1982 and 1987 Oil Merger Reports
- Branded Products
- Merger Retrospectives
 - Oil
 - Hospitals
 - Branded Consumer Products
- Coordinated Interaction
- Unilateral Effects
- Price Discrimination
- Merger Efficiencies
- Health Care Issues

Consumer Protection

Case Support/Generation

- Sub-Prime Credit Cases
- Negative Option Policy
- Telemarketing Sales Rule and Do Not Call
- Franchise and Business Opportunity Marketing Rules
- Advertising Cases
- Dietary Supplement Cases
- "Pyramid" Cases

Related Work

- Privacy Policy Evaluations
- Fraud Enforcement Retrospective
- Qualified Health Claims with FDA
- RESPA Revisions and Input for HUD
- Class Action Lawsuits and Remedies for Consumers

Consumer Protection

Roundtables/Hearings

- "Credit" Roundtable
- Input into:
 - Health Care Workshop
 - Internet Roundtable

Papers/Reports

- BE Food Advertising Claims Report (September 2002)
- Rent-to-own Follow-on Papers
- Marketing Fraud/Pyramid Schemes Paper

On-going Research

- Fraud Case Review
- ID Theft Survey
- Survey re: Consumer Experience with Fraud Survey
- Health Claims
- Health Care
- Consumer Interpretation of Testimonial Claims
- Research on Consumer Credit Markets

Examples of Advocacy

- FDA's Direct-to-Consumer Prescription Drug Advertising Survey
- Competition and the Effects of Price Controls in Hawaii's Gasoline Market
- New York Motor Fuel Marketing Practices Act
- Proposed North Carolina State Bar Opinions Concerning Non-Attorneys' Involvement in Real Estate Transactions
- State of Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians Concerning the Sale of Contact Lenses
- Virginia Senate Bill No. 458, "Below-Cost Sales of Motor Fuels"
- EPA, Boutique Fuels
- FERC - Electricity (Various)
- FDA Proposal for Nutrition Labeling of Trans Fatty Acids
- HUD Revisions to RESPA